

Remarks

The Office Action mailed August 15, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the following comments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 21-25 stand rejected. Claims 18-20 were previously cancelled.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2006, for the above-identified patent application from November 15, 2006 through and including December 15, 2006. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$120.00 to cover this extension of time request is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts at page 2 that “Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.” The Office Action further asserts that “Claims 1, 8 and 21 disclose ‘the user to select...from a list of business communities’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to a user selecting from a ‘list of business communities’ the only mention of a user selecting anything pertains to a user selecting from the search results, there is no mention of a list.” Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

Claim 1 recites “assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to select the at least one customized business community from a list of business communities”. Independent Claims 8 and 21 include similar recitations. As explained below, Applicants submit that the originally filed specification clearly describes assigning a user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to select at least one customized business community from a list of business communities.

For example, the specification at page 5, paragraph 0022 provides in relevant part as follows:

The web site described above is organized around communities targeted to specific populations of users. Users customize the web page using three vectors. Specifically, a user enters organization, function and location (geographic) information, and based on that information, communities are identified to which such user can belong. For example, a user can be an engineer in a power systems business and located in Florida. That specific user therefore could be a member of an engineering community (vector 1), an engineering community comprising engineers in power systems businesses (vector 2), as well as an engineering community comprising engineers in power systems businesses located in Florida (vector 3). *The user also can customize the home page by selecting particular communities to which the user desires to belong, and can further customize the home page by selecting particular communities of interest to the user which might not relate to the user's organization, function, and location information.* (Emphasis added.)

In other words, Paragraph 0022 of the originally filed specification clearly states that a user can customize his or her home page by selecting particular communities to which the user desires to belong, and by selecting particular communities of interest to the user which might not relate to the user's organization, function, and location information.

Applicants submit that although Paragraph 0022 does not specifically state "a list of business communities", Paragraph 0022 does describe enabling a user to customize a home page by selecting particular communities to which the user desires to belong. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand, after reading Paragraph 0022, that in order for the user to select particular communities to which the user desires to belong, the user would be selecting the particular communities from a list of business communities. Accordingly, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art, after reading Paragraph 0022, would understand the recitation "assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to select the at least one customized business community from a list of business communities" as recited in Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 1, 8 and 21 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

Claims 18-20 have been previously cancelled. Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claims 1, 8 and 21. When the recitations of Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1, 8 and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 likewise satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

In addition, the Office Action asserts at page 3 that “Claims 2 and 10 disclose ‘business community button’; ‘sub-business community button’ and ‘customized business community button’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to ‘buttons’”. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

Claim 2 recites in part a “method according to Claim 1 wherein the search zoom tool includes a business community button, a sub-business community button, and a customized business community button....” Claim 10 includes a similar recitation. As explained below, Applicants submit that the originally filed specification clearly describes a “user interactive selection bar on which a user can select the search results to be displayed.” The figures, namely Figures 4-7, show that the selection bar includes multiple “buttons”. These buttons allow a user to display the search results for the community or communities associated with the displayed buttons.

For example, the specification at pages 5-6, paragraph 0024-0026 provides in relevant part as follows:

More particularly, each search result includes a community identifier, and the processor is programmed to cause to be displayed only the search results corresponding to communities (i.e., vectors) selected by the user via the user interface. In the example, the operator can select from four different types of search results to view. A first type of search result that can be viewed includes all search results, i.e., the search results for all databases searched on the system. A second type of search result has vector 1 type results, i.e., the search results for the vector 1 type databases. A third type of search result has vector 2 type results, i.e., the search results for the vector 2 type databases. A fourth type of search result has vector 3 type results, i.e., the search results for the vector 3 type databases. The search results are along a continuum from broad to narrow, with the first type of being a most broad result and the fourth type of search result being a most narrow result.

An operator can select which type of search result should be displayed by simply making a selection on the user interface, e.g., via a web page. By allowing an operator to “zoom” in on the search results, e.g., move from viewing the very broad search result to the very narrow search result, the operator may more quickly find the specific information being sought. As used herein, the term zoom refers to narrowing search results from a more broad search result to a more narrow search result.

Of course, there are many different ways in which to implement the zoom search capability. One example implementation is described below in connection with Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7, which illustrate example pages/screen shots based on an operator selection of the type of results to be viewed. The example pages illustrated in Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7 are generated based on the

system and databases described above in Figures 1, 2, and 3. Therefore, the zoom function is based on moving from a broadly defined community to a more narrowly defined, customized community. As explained above, the zoom function can be practiced in connection with many different types of architectures rather than a community based architecture.

By way of further example, pages 7-9, paragraph 0030-0037 of the specification provide in relevant part as follows:

Referring now to Figure 4, the web page includes a user interactive selection bar on which a user can select the search results to be displayed. Figure 4 illustrates a first type of search result in which the search results for an entire system database (in this case, the SupportCentral database) are displayed for viewing by a user.

To narrow the search results to be displayed, and referring now to Figure 5, the user simply selects a next type of search result on the selection bar. Of course, the user need not select any one of the possible types of search results in any order. For example, rather than viewing the search results sequentially from most broad to most narrow, an operator can select to view the most narrow search results immediately after viewing the most broad search results.

As shown in Figure 5, the user has selected to view the type 2 (vector 1) results, which are the search results based on the searching conducted in the databases that comprise the user's business community....

Figure 6 illustrates a further narrowing of the search results to be displayed from vector 1 to vector 2. Specifically, the search results obtained by searching the databases of the sub-business are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 6....

Figure 7 illustrates an even further narrowing of the search results to the users customized communities. *As explained above, these are the user selected communities in which the user may have a particular interest.* The search results obtained by searching the databases of the customized communities are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 7....

The above described zoom function provides the advantage that a user can easily and quickly narrow or broaden the search results to be viewed without having to conduct an entirely new search. Rather, the search results for a particular community, or for the entire system, can be easily and readily displayed to a user for viewing.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the originally filed specification and Figures 4-7 clearly describe a "user interactive selection bar on which a user can select the search results to be displayed." The selection bar includes multiple "buttons". These buttons allow a user to display the search results for the community or communities associated with the displayed buttons.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art, after reviewing the originally filed specification including the Figures, would understand the “search zoom tool includes a business community button, a sub-business community button, and a customized business community button” as recited in Claims 2 and 10.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 2 and 10 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

In addition, the Office Action asserts at page 3 that “Claim 22 discloses ‘a business community selector, a sub-business community selector and a customized business community selector’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to ‘selector’”. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

However, Applicants have amended Claim 22 to include “the search zoom tool including a business community button, a sub-business community button, and a customized business community button.” For the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 2 and 10, Applicants submit that Claim 22 also satisfies Section 112, first paragraph.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-25 under Section 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is respectfully traversed. The Office Action asserts that “Claims 1, 8 and 21 recite the limitation ‘business community identifier’ and ‘sub-business community identifier’ and then the claim proceeds to disclose search results corresponding to a ‘business community’ and ‘sub-business community’, which renders the claim vague and indefinite...” Applicants traverse this assertion.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8 and 21 to address this rejection. Claims 1, 8 and 21 recite, among other things, as follows: “each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to”. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1, 8 and 21 are definite and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

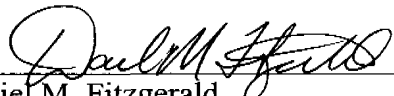
For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection to Claims 1, 8 and 21.

Claims 18-20 have been previously cancelled. Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claims 1, 8 and 21. When the recitations of Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1, 8 and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 likewise satisfy Section 112, second paragraph.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection to Claims 1-25.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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